

HOUSE RESOLUTION 179

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Thomas Earl Graves of Grand Junction.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Thomas Earl Graves; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Graves was an exemplary public servant and consummate law enforcement professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Graves served with acumen and alacrity as a law enforcement officer in Hardeman and Fayette Counties, in which positions he earned the respect of his peers and the public alike for the exemplary quality of his work and his dedication to duty; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hardeman County, Mr. Graves was born on June 6, 1932, to the late William Leon Graves and the late Alma Lee Lane Graves; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Graves was educated in the Hardeman County public school system and was a graduate of the Donelson Police Academy; and

WHEREAS, he was a longtime law enforcement officer in the Somerville and Grand Junction areas before his retirement in 1998; during his illustrious career, Mr. Graves had served as a constable, as a deputy sheriff in Fayette County, as a police officer in Grand Junction, and as the Grand Junction Chief of Police before taking a much deserved retirement; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Graves was an active and devout Christian and a member of the Masonic Lodge; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, the former Patricia "Pat" Mason, whom he married on September 26, 1986; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Graves is also survived by a daughter, Rita Watkins; three sons, each of whom has carried on the noble tradition established by their estimable father by pursuing a career in law enforcement, Tommy Graves, Donnie Graves, and Ronnie Graves; step-daughter, Paula Berry; sisters, Sarah Kelley and Geneva Rogers; brothers, Edward Graves, Robert Graves, Jesse Graves, and Danny Graves; and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Earl Graves leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant, law enforcement officer, and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Thomas Earl Graves, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction, while protecting and serving his community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Graves.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.